



Iowa State Historical Building

Summary of Findings and Next Steps

September 2012

STATE HISTORICAL
BUILDING
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS



Lord Cultural Resources

Building the vision...
Engaging communities...
Planning the experience...
Creating Cultural Capital

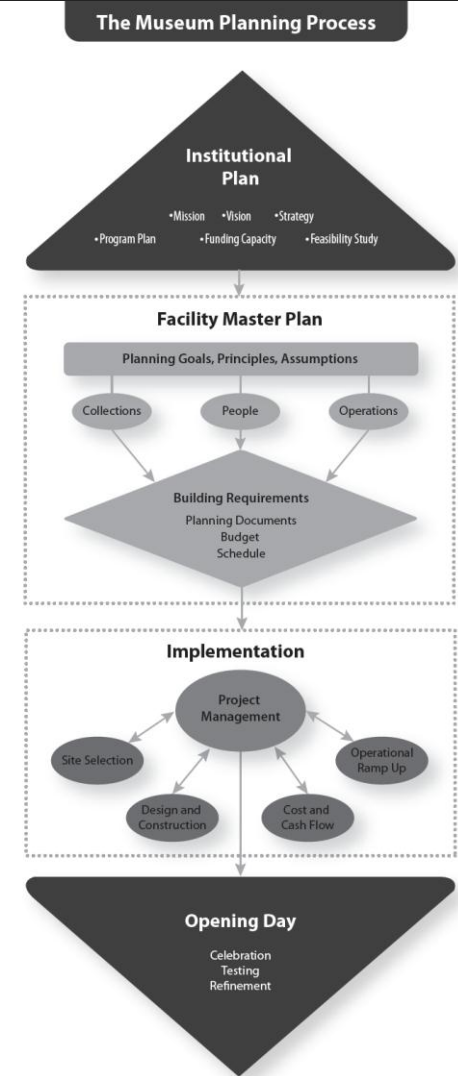
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An Integrated Approach

We believe success begins with establishing a **clear strategy**, rooted in a deep understanding of the **needs of the community**.

Flowing from that vision, preliminary planning is developed. We work to support programmatic activity through alignment of **space, operations, and financial resources**.

This puts forward the framework for smooth **implementation** and long term **sustainability**.



Deep Experience with Leading and Emerging Institutions

- Smithsonian Institution
- City of Chicago
- Central Park Conservancy
- Grand Egyptian Museum
- Longwood Gardens
- 9/11 Memorial Museum
- West Kowloon Cultural District
- Miami Science Museum



National Museum of African American Heritage and Culture Washington D.C. 2008, 2011-ongoing

Public Engagement, Museum and Facility Requirements, Functional Strategy, Collections Analysis,
Program Planning, Content Development, Communications Services



Natural History Museum of Utah University of Utah, Salt Lake City, 2004-07

Master Planning, Business Planning, Strategic Planning



Chicago Cultural Plan Chicago, Illinois 2012



Welcome to the online
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Cultural Plan 2012.

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above, you can click over to our
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with the latest meeting info.

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City of Chicago
Mayor Rahm Emanuel

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF
DCASE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS & SPECIAL EVENTS



Phase 1: Needs Assessment



1.1 Background Review,
Project Orientation

1.2 Start Up Meeting
& Site Visit

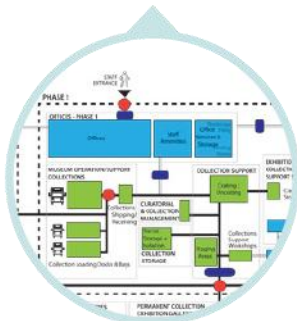
1.3 Collections Analysis

1.4 Facility Review
& Mapping

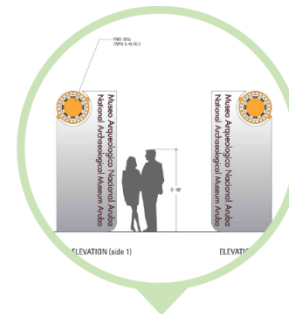
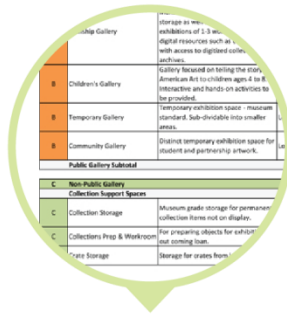
1.5 Circulation &
Wayfinding Review

1.6 Needs
Assessment Report

1.7 Facility
Priorities Workshop



Phase 2: Facility Strategy



2.1 Planning Goals, Principles & Assumptions

2.2 Space Program

2.3 Wayfinding Strategy

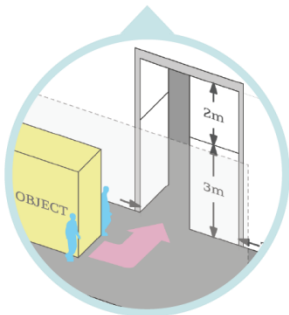
2.4 Access, Adjacency & Circulation Diagrams

2.5 Museum Systems & Standards

2.6 Cost Estimate

2.7 Draft Report and Meeting

2.8 Final Report



Key Findings & Next Steps

Key Findings

- **There is lack of alignment between the DCA's mandate, staffing, budget and facilities.**
- **The building and its exhibitions are dated**, no longer providing a relevant experience for cultural audiences.
- Cultural institutions have evolved since the 1980's, and as a result the **building and museum are no longer in line with best practices.**
- **Deferred maintenance** and in some cases flaws in **outdated design** are deeply impacting building's ability to function as a cultural facility.

Key Recommendations

- Re-vision and align priorities, finances, staffing, and space for the Department of Cultural Affairs; make significant changes.
- Consider a significant renovation to the existing building.
- Take a holistic approach to planning—aimed at enhancing the institution and its facility.
- Embrace the opportunity for the building, museum and campus to be the ultimate visitor experience and center for the Capitol Complex as well as the state of Iowa.

Recommendations: Implementation

Over the next 12-16 months the DCA should focus on planning and projects that fall into three key categories:

1. Planning for the future
2. Investing in collections care
3. Building enhancements

1. Planning for the Future

The Department of Cultural Affairs needs to take a careful and comprehensive view of its future; developing a plan that is rooted in a strong understanding of the needs of Iowans as well as realities such as staffing and budgets. This includes:

- State-wide **Cultural Needs Assessment** to **understand what the Iowans want, need and expect from the DCA** as well as how the DCA can provide a meaningful impact given its limited resources
- Development of a **Master Plan** for the agency that clearly articulates:
 - Audiences and likely attendance levels
 - Visitor experience at public facilities including State Historical Building
 - Integration of the Capitol Visitors' Center in the activities of the agency
 - Exhibition and public program strategy
 - Collections strategy and mandates for archives, objects and library
 - Fundraising feasibility for capital and operating support
 - Business & operating/staffing plan with likely revenue and expenses
 - Implementation plan to guide transition

2. Investing in Collections Care

Upgrading collections management is critical to the long-term future of the organization. Through improving collection care the agency will be able to move forward with potential future plans such as public access via the internet, a physical upgrade of storage areas, and integrated exhibitions featuring archival, object and library holdings. This includes:

- **Collections Management Overhaul** with new computer system, physical inventory, digitization of collections documentation and object collections.
- **Improved care** for key collections:
 - Planes de-installed from atrium to stop damage from leaking and un-filtered skylights
 - Wet collections relocated to dedicated storage area, limiting risk to other collections
- Identification of **collections work areas** to limit work in store rooms

3. Building Enhancements

Measures should be taken to make sure the building's physical state does not diminish further. Given that the DCA does not yet know the nature of the long-term facility upgrades, repairs; solutions implemented should be intended to last for approximately 5 years. Selective improvements should be made to the building focusing on two primary objectives:

- **Improving visitor experience in public spaces**
- Improving **safety of the public and staff**
 - Granite façade replacement/improvements
- Preventing further damage to the building from **moisture**
 - Drainage system upgrade/repair of cracked drainage pipes in walls
 - Skylight system improvements

Key Questions to Guide Planning

1. What is the **optimal visitor experience** for the building, museum and the larger Capitol Complex?
2. How can a **visitor center** best be incorporated?
3. What is the proper complement of **space** to support staff functions?
4. How can **long-term growth** best be accommodated?
5. What is the **best approach** moving forward?



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